

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: CLAUDIA ZOURS ET AL - 1 (PCT)
SERIAL NO.: 10/507,261 GROUP: 3743
FILED: MAY 16, 2005
FOR: SUPPORT FRAME FOR RELIEVING THE VERTEBRAL
COLUMN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

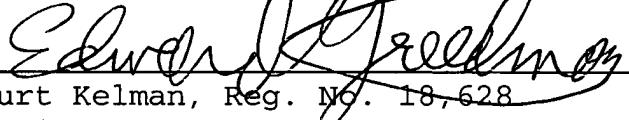
Applicants are enclosing Form PTO-1449 listing the references cited in the International Search Report. US 3,889,64 and US 2,835,247 were also discussed in the specification (see second Preliminary Amendment).

No support frame that contains length-adjustable support rods that run parallel to the vertebral column - for adapting the support frame to the individual body dimensions of the patient, on the one hand, and no interchangeable reinforcement rods having a different thickness, a different stiffness, and/or a different length - for step-by-step weaning of the patient from the orthosis, on the other hand, can be found in the German patent 89 07 580. It discloses a device for supporting the human body when lifting loads, but not a support frame that is permanently

worn by patients suffering from problems with the vertebral column. It is not a support frame composed of a hip clasp and a thoracic vertebrae clasp, but rather a device consisting of a hip belt and a chest belt, both of which completely surround the upper body of the wearer and do not merely cover the back region, as the clasps according to the present invention do.

Furthermore, the belts also differ from the clasps according to the present invention, which are generally made of plastic or aluminum, with regard to their flexibility. Therefore, it is obvious that this is not a support frame. In addition, the hip belt of the prior art rests on the body **below the pelvic ridge** (page 6, lines 4-5) so that this device obviously does not have the back support function of the present invention.


Respectfully submitted,
Claudia ZOURS ET AL


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Kelly Espitia

FORM PTO-1449
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

ZOURS ET AL-1 PCT

SERIAL NO.

10/507,261

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY
APPLICANT

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FILING DATE

MAY 16, 2005

GROUP

3743

(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	2,835,247	5/1958	STABHOLO			
	AB	5,362,304	11/1994	VARN			
	AC	3,889,664	6/1975	HEUSER ET AL			
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	DE 89 07 580	8/1990	Germany (enclosed)				
	AM	GB 2,215,607	11/1989	Gt. Britain (enclosed)				
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.